



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE ANNOUNCES \$800,000 TO AID VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today that the Rhode Island Justice Commission (RIJC) will receive \$809,083 to improve services for potential victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and child abuse. This will be accomplished by creating and enhancing collaborative partnerships between criminal justice agencies, victim services providers, and community organizations to better respond to crimes of domestic violence, dating violence and child abuse, and to provide services to the victims of such violence.

The grant was awarded as part of the U.S. Department of Justice's fiscal year 2005 Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program.

"While the prevention of domestic violence and child abuse remains the ultimate goal, measures must be put in place to ensure that victims of such atrocious and inexcusable crimes will begin receiving treatment and support soon after an unfortunate incident of abuse or violence. Furthermore, we must see to it that abusers who commit these acts are caught and brought to justice in an expeditious manner," Senator Chafee said. "This substantial award will allow the Rhode Island Justice Commission to facilitate partnerships with communities and agencies alike to ensure victims are treated appropriately and violators are punished in an appropriate way," he continued.

The RIJC will use this funding to continue its partnerships with the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center, the Sojourner House, the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County, the Sexual Assault and Trauma Resource Center, and the Women's Resource Center of Newport & Bristol Counties. These groups form local Community Partnership Teams, which include domestic violence and sexual assault advocates, law enforcement officers, educators, members of the clergy, local business men and women, health care providers, local residents, as well as domestic violence and sexual assault survivors.

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The teams will use resources to enhance and develop collaborative partnerships with local law enforcement, while conducting on-going recruitment, training, education, and support for community advocates. In addition, funding will be used to provide transportation assistance for victims of domestic violence to get to courts, police, and other appointments as needed, and will also be used to provide on-going support services, including individual and group counselling for adult and child victims of domestic abuse. Community-based public awareness materials will also be developed.

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